

REMARKS

The application has been amended to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A substitute abstract of the disclosure is provided that remove the reference numerals in order to address the specification objection.

Claims 1-20 remain in this application.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 14 and 15 are allowable.

The reference numeral and letters are removed from each of the claims. In addition, the Examiner's kind suggestions to address the claim objections are incorporated. Please note that for claim 11, line 7 provides antecedent basis for the recited "electrical power supply". Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 is amended to depend from claim 2 to address the 37 CFR 1.75 objection.

Claims 1-10 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by ELIZALDE et al. U.S. Publication No. 2003/0227827. Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over ELIZALDE in view of PARATORE et al. U.S. 6,294,997. Claims 13, 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over ELIZALDE in view of PARATORE and further in view of HENNIG U.S. 5,514,995 and claim 19 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over

ELIZALDE in view of HENNIG. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The earliest date to which ELIZALDE is entitled to is its November 7, 2002 filing date.

Applicants submit herewith a declaration under Rule 1.131 declaring that applicant's invention was completed prior to ELIZALDE's earliest date as evidenced by the draft patent application forwarded to the assignee for review and diligently filed by the French patent attorney in order to obviate the rejections based on ELIZALDE.

As each of the rejections relies upon ELIZALDE and as these rejections are believed to be overcome by the declaration under Rule 1.131, each of the claims pending in the application is believed to be patentable.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Liam McDowell/

Liam McDowell, Reg. No. 44,231
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573

LM/jr

APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- one (1) 37 CFR 1.131 Declaration
- a first draft of the foreign priority document in French including drawings and the order letter therfor
- an accurate English translation of the first draft of the foreign priority document including drawings and the order letter therefor